

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Unknown)
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Filing Date: Unknown)
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Priority Date: 2 August 2000)
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Applicants: SMITH, Simon and EDWARDS, Ralph Bernard)
)
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION)
DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Method And System for Information Development and Access" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0018839.1 filed 2 August 2000.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title insert the following header and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0018839.1 filed 2 August 2000.--;

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, lines 12, 25 and 26 change "organisation" to --organization--; lines 17 and 18 change "organisation's" to --organization's--; and line 21 change "organisational" to --

organizational--.

Page 2, before line 8, insert the Header:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 4, line 12, change "organisational" to --organizational--; lines 15 and 18, change "organisation" to --organization--; line 18, change "characterise" to --characterize--; and line 22, change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 5, line 7, change "organisational" to --organizational--; line 13, change "organisation's" to --organization's--; and line 19, change "organisation" to --organization--.

Page 6 before the first line insert the Header:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 6, line 21, change "utilising" to --utilizing--.

Page 7, before line 5, add the Header:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Page 7, lines 9 and 23, change "organise" to --organize--; line 19, change "characterise" to --characterize--; and line 21, change "utilisation" to --utilization--.

Page 8, line 17, change "characterise" to --characterize--; line 18, change "organising" to --organizing--; line 25, change "organisation" to --organization--; lines 26 and 29, change "organisational" to --organizational--; and line 27, change "organisation's" to --organization's--.

Page 8, add the following paragraph after the last line:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be

limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 are unchanged. Please amend claims 7-17 and add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

7. (Amended) A process model according to Claim 6 [characterised in that] wherein the process model is illustrated on a display screen and the elements [can] may be selected by any conventional [PC] personal computer based user control system.

8. (Amended) A process model according to claim 6 [characterised in that] wherein the knowledge resources are accessed by the user selection of one or more of the symbols or links representing these resources from within the process model or definition and an appropriate display is generated for any associated knowledge resource.

9. (Amended) A process model according to claim 6 [characterised in that] wherein a modeller/user follows the method to create a set of general purpose graphical business models containing various linked elements in a tool, said tool able to generate models which are accessible via a web browser and which links the knowledge resource symbols in the browser by uniquely identifying each element and its corresponding web page.

10. (Amended) A process model according to claim 9 [characterised in that] wherein the model maps knowledge resource symbols, [(associated with a process that requires them)], to their corresponding knowledge resources.

11. (Amended) A business or process model, said model comprising a number of process model elements which in conjunction represent the model and [characterised in that] wherein at least one of the elements is linked to a number of resources which can be selectively accessed by a user of the model and said resources linked to a particular element are made available to the user following the user choosing the particular element.

12. (Amended) A model according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein the model is displayed on a display screen and the user [can] may interact with said model using a suitable control tool to select one or a number of the elements which make up the model.

13. (Amended) A model according to claim 12 [characterised in that] wherein upon selection of an element if there are any resources linked thereto in the model, the same are represented on the display screen and thereafter selectable by the user.

14. (Amended) A model according to claim 13 [characterised in that] wherein upon selection of a resource the resource is accessed and made available for use by the user.

15. (Amended) A model according to claim 14 [characterised in that] wherein the selected resources can only be accessed by the user via the business or process model and the prior selection of an element of the same.

16. (Amended) A model according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein the usage of the elements and resources of the model can be traced to a particular user by the model administrator.

17. (Amended) A model according to [any of the preceding claims,] claim 11 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.

18. (New) A model according to claim 1 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.

19. (New) A model according to claim 6 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.

REMARKS


Attached are the marked up versions of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 31 July 2001

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New Header to be Inserted on Page 1, before line 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0018839.1 filed 2 August 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Replacement paragraphs for Page 1:

Process models are increasingly used to define best practice within a business and to communicate this to those associated with the business, with the potential benefit of enhanced business performance and the reduction in risk of failures of adherence to best practise, whether that best practise is defined within the organization or by a regulatory body.

Alongside process models describing best practice processes and the resources that these require in order to be delivered, businesses will evolve a body of documentation, guidelines, policies and rules concerning the delivery of said processes. This body constitutes the organization's knowledge resource that distinguishes its delivery of a process from another organization's delivery of the same process. We coin the term knowledge activation to describe the linkage of resources as described within a process model to their counterparts within this body of organizational knowledge.

Prior art is cited in the area of business process modelling. This work gives the ability to describe process, and describe the knowledge resource requirements of a business, but gives no managed linkage, via the processes that make the organization work, to the knowledge resources created around an organization. Prior art can also be cited in the area of document management that

New paragraph Header to be inserted into Page 2 before line 8:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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Paragraphs to be added to Page 4:

The advantage of the present invention is that it provides a method for creating a process driven knowledge activation system that can communicate and disseminate arbitrary business intent, additionally providing access to a managed body of organizational knowledge resources at appropriate points in the process models describing said intent. The method allows non-technical users to rapidly create process models that describe the working of an organization. The models can be used to access the resources that said users and others create in the course of their business work, and that characterize the delivery of said processes by that organization.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a business model, said model comprising a number of process model elements which in conjunction represent the business model and characterized in that at least one of the elements is linked to a number of resources which can be selectively accessed by a user of the model and said resources linked to a particular element are made available to the user following the user choosing the particular element.

Replacement Paragraphs for Page 5:

Thus in one embodiment, improved business model usage is provided to the user by the user clicking at an element or process in the organizational model, said click revealing the knowledge resources available or required at that element in the model. Each resource can be presented to the user through a click on a symbol or named link that represents a specific required resource, followed by the delivery of said resource to said user.

Moreover, the model includes a mechanism whereby the distributed and evolutionary aspects of the organization's knowledge resources can be hidden from the users of said resources through the mechanism of accessing resources from their representation within said process models or their definitions, rather than directly through a file store.

Furthermore, said activation provides the traceability of the usage of knowledge resources throughout the organization as an aid to knowledge resource management and auditability.

Before Line 1 Insert the Following Header:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Paragraph for Page 6:

Figure 3 shows a screen display of the 'Engage with Customer; process utilizing a process model in accordance with the invention, complete with a generated link to the knowledge resources defined in the process modelling tool, along with a figurative illustration of the effect of a click on said links;

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Page 7, before line 5 insert the following Header:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Replacement paragraphs for Page 7:

In the following description, an example of the method according to the invention is referred to as "Knowledge Activation". The underlying concept of Knowledge Activation is to link process models with a Knowledge Centre into which users can store and organize knowledge resources for subsequent search and retrieval through the business process models, presenting a consistent operating interface to these resources for people associated with the business workers. A preferred embodiment of Knowledge Activation is as follows:

1. A modelling team creates a set of process models representing the business using a modelling tool which generates outputs accessible via a web browser, also associating with these process models symbols representing the knowledge resources (e.g. documentation, guidelines, policies and rules) that characterize the delivery of these processes in this business, using the dependency analysis of the modelling tool to audit and trace resource utilization;
2. Those people responsible for the knowledge resources identified in step 1 organize and store these resources in a Knowledge Centre (or other accessible electronic storage), which can additionally be a distributed Knowledge Centre across many physical locations;

Replacement Paragraph for Page 8:

Thus the present invention provides a method for creating a process-based information system giving access to relevant knowledge resources at the appropriate points within a process where those knowledge resources are required. The method comprises the steps of creating a process model or models comprising one or more elements which are accessible via a web browser, associating these processes with one or more symbols representing the knowledge resources that characterize their delivery, storing and organizing one or more knowledge resources which are accessible via a web browser, and generating a process-driven knowledge activation system comprising one or more knowledge resource symbols or links associated with a process model or definition which act as the user interface to the one or more knowledge resources. This method allows the rapid creation by non-technical users of process models describing the working of an organization, the models being used as a means of accessing in context the body of organizational knowledge that distinguishes its delivery of a process from another organization's delivery of the same process, with associated benefits in the management and traceability of a distributed, evolving body of organizational knowledge

New Paragraph for Page 8 to be Inserted After the Last Line:

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the

scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

Clean Version of the Claims

7. (Amended) A process model according to Claim 6 wherein the process model is illustrated on a display screen and the elements can be selected by any conventional PC based user control system.
8. (Amended) A process model according to claim 6 wherein the knowledge resources are accessed by the user selection of one or more of the symbols or links representing these resources from within the process model or definition and an appropriate display is generated for any associated knowledge resource.
9. (Amended) A process model according to claim 6 wherein a modeller/user follows the method to create a set of general purpose graphical business models containing various linked elements in a tool, said tool able to generate models which are accessible via a web browser and which links the knowledge resource symbols in the browser by uniquely identifying each element and its corresponding web page.
10. (Amended) A process model according to claim 9 wherein the model maps knowledge resource symbols (associated with a process that requires them) to their corresponding knowledge resources.
11. (Amended) A business or process model, said model comprising a number of process model elements which in conjunction represent the model and wherein at least one of the elements is linked to a number of resources which can be selectively accessed by a user of the model and said resources linked to a

particular element are made available to the user following the user choosing the particular element.

12. (Amended) A model according to claim 11 wherein the model is displayed on a display screen and the user can interact with said model using a suitable control tool to select one or a number of the elements which make up the model.

13. (Amended) A model according to claim 12 wherein upon selection of an element if there are any resources linked thereto in the model, the same are represented on the display screen and thereafter selectable by the user.

14. (Amended) A model according to claim 13 wherein upon selection of a resource the resource is accessed and made available for use by the user.

15. (Amended) A model according to claim 14 wherein the selected resources can only be accessed by the user via the business or process model and the prior selection of an element of the same.

16. (Amended) A model according to claim 11 wherein the usage of the elements and resources of the model can be traced to a particular user by the model administrator.

17. (Amended) A model according to claim 11 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated

resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.

18. (New) A model according to claim 1 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.

19. (New) A model according to claim 6 wherein said model graphically represented on a display screen and including a series of model elements and a series of resources, said resources, or representations thereof linked to elements and revealed to the user upon the user selecting an element, the associated resources then presented to the user for selection, and, upon selection, accessible to the user.